GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2081
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2008
OPIUM CULTIVATION
Singh Shri Dushyant

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a): whether there has been a sharp decline in the opium cultivation;

(b): if so,the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(c): the number of opium growers affected thereby, State-wise;and

(d): the steps taken to provide proper compensation to them?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM)

(a) & (b): No sir.There has been no sharp decline in opium cultivation.However,the area under cultivation of opium poppy has been gradually declining over the past few years as some farmers get de-licensed every year due to not fulfilling the eligibility criteria to get a licence.During the current crop year (2008-09), however,the total area licenced has been significantly increased by doubling the area each cultivator is licenced from 10 ares to 20 ares.Further,cultivators who tendered average yield of more than 60kg/ha during 2007-08 have been licenced an additional 10 ares as an incentive.

(c): The number of opium growers de-licenced during the past three years is as below:
2005-06 2006-07 2007-08
Madhya Pradesh 6,063 2,555 5,897 Rajasthan 8,877 7,074 9,808 Uttar Pradesh 1,034 979 224 Total 15,974 10,608 15,929
(d): Farmers are de-licenced if they do not tender the minimum qualifying yield, tender adulterated or water-mixed opium,violate the provisions of NDPS Act or Rules or Departmental instructions,etc. De-licencing such farmers is essential to prevent diversion of licit opium into illicit channels.Farmers who are so de-licenced are not paid any compensation by the Government of India.